

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic appliance for application to a body portion, said orthopedic appliance comprising

a substantially rigid structure, said substantially rigid structure having an inner surface and an outer surface, said substantially rigid structure having a plurality of holes therethrough at pre-selected locations; and

~~_____~~ a flexible support member comprising a top layer and a bottom layer; and

a liner affixed to the flexible support member and adapted to be positioned next to the body portion ~~inner surface of said substantially rigid structure~~, said liner being of a material that facilitates the transfer of moisture from the body portion out through said holes of said substantially rigid structure to the atmosphere, and wherein the flexible support member is positioned between the substantially rigid structure and the liner.

2. (Original) The orthopedic appliance of claim 1 wherein said liner provides substantially uniform compression to the body part to prevent the occurrence of window edema.

3. (Original) The orthopedic appliance of claim 1 wherein said device is a prosthesis.

4. (Original) The orthopedic appliance of claim 1 wherein said device is an orthosis.

5. (Original) The orthopedic appliance of claim 4 wherein said orthosis is selected from the group consisting of an ankle brace, a leg brace, a walking brace, and an arm brace.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic appliance of claim ~~16~~ wherein said flexible support member is provided with a plurality of holes therethrough, ~~said holes in said flexible support member being in alignment with said holes in said substantially rigid structure.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic appliance of claim 17 wherein said flexible support member is selected from the group consisting of an air cell, a cell filled with a gel, a cell filled with a fluid, a solid gel material, a non-porous foam pad, and a porous foam pad.
9. (Original) The orthopedic appliance of claim 8 wherein said flexible support member is an air cell and said air cell contains a foam material.
10. (Currently Amended) The orthopedic appliance of claim 16 wherein said flexible support material is a porous material.
11. (Original) The orthopedic appliance of claim 10 wherein said porous material is an open-cell foam.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 7, wherein the plurality of holes located in the flexible support member include a sealed interface between the top layer and the bottom layer of the flexible support member.
14. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 7, wherein the liner covers at least one of the holes located in the flexible support member.
15. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 7, wherein the liner covers at least one of the holes located in the substantially rigid structure.
16. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the flexible support member is pre-inflated.

17. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the top layer and the bottom layer of the flexible support member are sealable around their edges.

18. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the flexible support member is reversibly attachable to the substantially rigid structure.

19. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the liner is sealingly attached at its periphery to the periphery of the flexible support member.

20. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 7, wherein a plurality of holes in the flexible support member are in alignment with a plurality of holes in the substantially rigid structure.

21. (New) The orthopedic appliance of claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of holes in the substantially rigid structure has a smaller diameter than at least one of the plurality of holes in the flexible support member.